

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

At page 1, lines 3-6, please delete the entire paragraph, and insert therefor the following paragraph:

-- This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/234,332, filed on January 20, 1999, which issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,087,168, on July 11, 2000, and also claims priority from European Patent Application Serial No. 00101100.6, filed on January 20, 2000, and Japanese Application Patent Application No. 2000-048291, filed January 20, 2000.

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